

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants' representative would like to thank the Examiner for entertaining arguments made during the telephonic interview of February 24, 2004. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that the arguments would be considered when entered into the record, and that the arguments appeared persuasive relevant to the previous Office Action dated November 18, 2004. In particular, non-cellular aspects of the present invention were discussed in relation to the cited prior art during the interview and those non-cellular aspects have been particularly pointed out in the claims as amended herein.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, Claims 47-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,999,808 issued to LaDue and the article entitled Wireless Industry Nibbles at Bluetooth (hereinafter "the Article"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in view of the amendments and remarks provided herein.

Applicants submit that the combination of LaDue and the Article fails to render obvious Claims 47-61, as the combination at least fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. For example, Claim 47 include references to non-cellular transceiver modules to which mobile terminals are connected to facilitate the gaming activity, where the non-cellular transceiver modules are coupled through a communication network. Thus, mobile terminals in a first group can communicate wirelessly via a first non-cellular transceiver, and mobile terminals in a second group can communicate wirelessly via a second non-cellular transceiver. The transceivers are coupled via a communication network such as the Internet or other data network, so that a mobile device(s) coupled to a first local wireless network can participate in gaming activities with a mobile device(s) coupled to a second local wireless network. These mobile devices can in addition independently communicate with cellular networks using cellular transceivers, although the gaming activities are performed independent of such cellular networks while allowing extended reach through the local wireless networks and interconnecting data network. Claims 48-60, either directly or by way of dependency, have also been amended in a similar fashion.

In contrast to Applicants' amended claims, and referring first to LaDue, LaDue teaches that both a cellular network and a paging/satellite network must be utilized to effect

gaming activities. For example, with relation to LaDue's FIGs. 1A and 1B: gaming terminal 100 receives a gaming message 220 from paging network 219 (column 7, lines 40-43); if gaming terminal 100 needs to respond to the gaming message 220, then it scans for an available cellular control channel (column 7, lines 51-55); gaming terminal 100 then bursts the response to the cellular base site (column 7, lines 61-64); the MSC processes the packet and routes to MCMS via SS7 (column 8, lines 1-9); the MCMS then routes the packet to the bearer facility, where the bearer facility may respond via PSTN back to the MCMS (column 8, lines 9-14); the MCMS then delivers the response to gaming terminal 100 via paging network 244 (column 8, lines 16-10). Other examples of the required cellular component in LaDue exist in relation to FIG. 2; FIG. 4 at column 16, lines 57-61; at column 17, lines 12-14 and lines 17-39; FIG. 6 at column 18, lines 25-27 and lines 59-62; at column 19 lines 11-19; and FIG. 7 at column 19, lines 32-38.

The rejection is based on a combination of LaDue and the Article, however it appears that some of the claims are being rejected based on LaDue alone, and claims reciting Bluetooth technology are being rejected on a combination of LaDue and the Article. Claims 50, 54 and 58 include recitations to Bluetooth transceivers or connections, and the Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims are patentable over the combination of LaDue and the Article. More particularly, it is respectfully submitted that a combination of LaDue and the Article does not teach or suggest the invention as set forth in the amended claims. LaDue teaches that cellular networks required for use with paging/satellite networks, and the Article describes Bluetooth technology generally. Even assuming *arguendo* that LaDue and the Article were properly combined, it is respectfully submitted that the gaming activity would necessarily be conducted using cellular networks and paging/satellite/signaling networks, which is one aspect that the present invention avoids.

Further, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the reference itself or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. The Examiner argues that the motivation to combine such references arises from LaDue, stating that a communications platform supports wireless gaming over cellular, paging, and signaling networks. It is respectfully

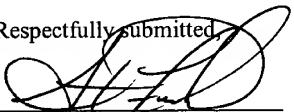
submitted that such networks do not contemplate local wireless networking. As previously described, the present invention does not employ cellular or paging networks to effect the gaming activity. Further, signaling networks refer to networks used for signaling, which carry control information, such as SS7 and X.25 signaling. It is respectfully submitted that such signaling networks do not contemplate the wireless data transmission effected via a Bluetooth transceiver or other short range RF network. It is respectfully submitted that LaDue does not describe, or suggest, a local wireless transceiver/connection as set forth in the currently pending claims, and does not provide a suggestion or motivation to combine with any local wireless network technology, whether Bluetooth or other low power RF technology.

For at least these reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance. The undersigned attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him if any discussions may facilitate prosecution of this application, and/or if the undersigned attorney can further assist in any way. If the Examiner believes such an interview to be helpful, the undersigned attorney may be contacted at (651) 686-6633, ext. 110.

Date:

3/18/04

By:

Respectfully submitted,

Steven R. Funk
Reg. No. 37,830
Crawford Maunu PLLC
1270 Northland Drive, Suite 390
St. Paul, Minnesota 55120
(651) 686-6633